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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s): Harrington, et al.

Serial No.: 08/951,733

Group Art Unit No.: 1653

Filed: October 16, 1997

Examiner: G. Bugaisky

For: Novel Genes Encoding Telomerase Proteins

Docket No.: A-433B

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTIONAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is filed in response to the Official Action mailed 27 December 1999 for the subject patent application. Please enter the following amendments to the record.

In the Claims

26. (three times amended) A method of increasing the proliferation rate of a cell, comprising expressing in the cell the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:13, or SEQ ID NO:19 or a fragment or variant nucleic acid molecule thereof, [wherein the variant nucleic encodes one or more conservative amino acid substitutions and optionally one or more amino acid deletions] wherein the variant nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that is at least 90 percent identical to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:14 or 20 as calculated using the computer algorithm FASTA with the default opening and gap penalties and the scoring matrix PAM 250, and wherein the polypeptide encoded by the fragment or variant nucleic acid molecule has telomerase catalytic activity.

27. (three times amended) A method of increasing telomerase activity in a cell, comprising expressing in the cell the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID NO:19, or a

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

3/14/00

Date

Signature